

Romania

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Romania GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Romania could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Romania GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-10 conducted in 2004.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Romania. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100%, the student response rate was 58.0%, and the overall response rate was 58.0%. A total of 4,129 students participated in the Romania GYTS.

Prevalence

56.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 65.1%, Girls = 49.1%)
 23.8% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 27.7%, Girls = 20.1%)
 23.2% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 27.1%, Girls = 19.7%)
 6.4% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 6.9%, Girls = 5.9%)
 5.1% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 7.1%, Girls = 3.3%)
 24.9% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 30.4%, Girls = 18.1%)
 28.0% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 20.9%, Girls = 32.4%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

62.9% buy cigarettes in a store
 73.0% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

89.4% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 85.0% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 82.9% think smoking should be banned from public places
 58.7% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 60.7% have one or more parents who smoke
 19.6% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

53.9% want to stop smoking
 72.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 78.0% have ever received help to stop smoking
 8.5% always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

87.4% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 87.4% saw pro media messages on TV
 61.6% saw anti messages vs. 79.1% saw pro messages on billboards
 54.0% saw anti smoking ads vs. 75.0% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
 22.2% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 11.6% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

59.2% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 53.3% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 52.1% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Almost one quarter of the students currently use any form of tobacco; 23% currently smoke cigarettes; 6.4% are current daily smokers; 5% currently smoke cigars; almost 3 in 10 never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- ETS exposure is very high – almost 9 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; over 8 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; over half of the students have parents who smoke.
- Almost 6 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Over half of current smokers want to quit; Almost 1 in 10 feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning.
- Over 8 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. almost 9 in 10 saw pro messages; 6 in 10 saw anti messages on billboards vs. almost 8 in 10 saw pro messages; over 5 in 10 saw anti ads in newspapers vs. over 7 in 10 saw pro ads.